scheme duty credit scrip benefitsare granted to the tune of 3.5% of the F.O.B, value of exports with an aim to compensate high transport costs.

(iii) The Government of India has decided to provide subvention of 4% in the rate of interest in pre-shipment and post-shipment credit to the marine products export sector.

(iv) **The** Government of India has also announced exemption from payment of service tax in respect of 15 taxable services linked to exports.

(c) MPEDA has started promoting deep sea fishing for tuna. Sashimi grade tuna fetches a very high price and is very much relished in the Japanese market. The Government has already extended assistance for conversion of existing fishing vessels to tuna long liners. Recently the Government has also introduced a scheme to provide financial assistance in the form of interest subsidy for construction of tuna long liners. It is expected that these measures will help fishermen to shifting their operations in deep sea fishing reduce pressure in the coastal waters.

(d) Not applicable.

FTA with China

2497. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of setting up an FTA with China;

(b) what are the details of countries with which India has FTAs; and

(c) how far will these initiatives help to boost bilateral trade between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In pursuance to the recommendations of the JSG, a Joint Task Force, (JTF) to study in detail the feasibility and the benefits that may derive from an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement (RTA), was constituted. The JTF has concluded that an RTA between India and China which reduces tariffs and removes non-tariff barriers will be mutually advantageous. During the Prime Minister's visit to China the two Prime Ministers agreed to entrust to the two Commerce Ministers to explore ways to act further on the recommendations of the JTF.

(b) India has signed the following Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trading Agreements (PTAs):

A-FTAs:

(i) India-Sri Lanka FTA

(ii) South Asia FTA (iii) India-

Singapore CECA (iv) India-Nepal

Treaty of Trade •

(v) India-Bhutan Agreement on Tarde Commerce and Transit

B-PTAs:

(i) Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

(ii) GSTP

(iii) India-Afghanistan PTA

(iv) India-MERCOSUR PTA

(v) India-Chile PTA

(vi) India-Thailand Framework Agreement

(c) All bilateral FTAs and PTAs are expected to boost bilateral trade by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Trade between Pakistan and India through land route

2498. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scope for tremendous boost of trade between Pakistan and India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the items are traded with Pakistan through sea route *via* Gujarat and Maharashtra ports; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to enhance the list of items that can be traded through land route at Attari border in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir, there is a scope for boost of trade between India and Pakistan. This is evident from the analysis of the bilateral trade data during 2003-04 to 2006-07 given below:

(Value: In US $ Million)

Year	Exports to Pak	Imports from Pak	Total Trade	%Age Growth in Export to Pakistan	%Age Growth in import	%Growth in Bilateral Trade
2003-04	286.94	57.74	344.68	39	29	
2004-05	521.05	94.97	616.02	82	64	79
2005-06	689.23	179.56	868.79	32	89	41
2006-07	1348.32	323.19	1671.51	96	80	92

DATA SOURCE: DGCI & S through NIC DOC

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On surface route India's trade with Pakistan is carried out through Attari Railway route. For trade by road route Attari Land Customs Station (LCS) on Indian side is already a notified LCS for bilateral trade for all commodities on a permanent basis, whereas Pakistan